

Appl. No.: 10/707,929  
Amdt. Dated: 10/24/2005  
Reply to Office action of: 08/10/2005

**AMENDMENTSTOTHEDRAWINGS:**

The attached 2 sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Figures 1 and 2. These sheets, which include Figures 1 – 5, replaces the original sheets including the improper multiple drawing Figures 1 and 2. In Figure 1 previously un-numbered elements have been numbered. In Figure 2 previously unnumbered elements have been numbered and unidentified section lines have been labeled. In addition the multiple drawings on both sheets have been given individual figure numbers and had unnumbered elements properly numbered.

Attachment: 2 Replacement Sheet(s)  
2 Annotated Sheet(s) Showing Changes

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### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the specification, the title has been amended such that it now is identical to the title listed in the Declaration. Paragraphs [0009] – [0013] and [0014] – [0017] have been amended to correct minor editorial and grammatical problems. New paragraphs [0013.1] – [0013.3] have been added to provide the necessary brief description of the properly identified Figures 3 – 5. New paragraph [0016.1] had been added to provide grammatically correct language. Paragraphs [0013] and [0017] have also been amended to identify properly element 4 in the figures and to provide a properly formatted Abstract.

The drawing sheets have been amended to correctly identify each drawing with its own Figure number, correctly number the elements in the figures, provide element numbers for all of the elements including the plugboard itself, and generally to overcome the objections to the drawings pointed out by the Examiner.

Claims 1 – 4 remain in this application. Amended claim 3 and new claim 4 are original claim 3 redrafted to overcome the improper multiple dependent claim form objected to by the Examiner.

No new matter has been introduced by these amendments to the title, specification, abstract, and claims.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Lages et al. (US 6,191,672 B1). Specifically, the Examiner states:

Lages et al. discloses a plugboard for housing sockets and micro-relays, of the type used for housing a plurality of connectors, sockets or micro-relays (Col. 2, lines 10 – 13) composed of a base 1 and a plurality of holes 15 – 17 having corresponding contact chambers 25 – 27 for housing connectors, sockets or micro-relays 38, characterized in that the holes are not aligned with each other and with the position of alternating holes for introducing the connector, socket or micro-relay rotate 180° with regard to the position of the remaining holes intended for housing the connectors, sockets or micro-relays of the ends of the plugboard (Col. 4, lines 14 – 17) also clearly illustrated in Fig. 2.

With respect to claim 2; Lages et al. further discloses the plug board discussed above is characterized in that it has three holes 15 – 17 wherein the central hole 16 is

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not aligned with regard to the two holes 15 and 17 of the ends of the plugboard and with the position for introducing the connector, socket or micro-relay rotate 180° with regard to the position of the two holes intended for housing the connectors, sockets or micro-relays of the ends of the plugboard (Fig. 2).

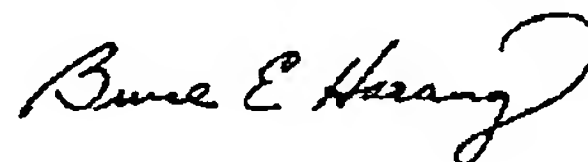
Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. The key to Applicants' invention is the ability to connect multiple connectors, sockets, or micro-relays in a plugboard in a reduced space while retaining the ability to lock said connectors, sockets, or micro-relays into said plugboard using connector pins which are capable of fully opening or locking due to the novel positioning of adjacent the connection holes in said plugboard.

A fair reading of Lages et al. reference discloses a plugboard to connect connectors, sockets, or micro-relays requiring both a base 1 and two secondary locking slides 8 inserted into the underside of the base member 1 into corresponding locking chambers 9 (see Col. 3, lines 33 – 35). Further plug jacks 33 and 35 allocated to the flat plugs 13 through 17 are then inserted into corresponding contact chambers 23 through 27 through the secondary locking slides 8 (see Col. 3, lines 36 – 39). Thus, a critical requirement of the Lages et al. reference is the use of a pair of secondary locking slides 8 to mount the connectors, sockets, or micro-relays onto the plugboard 1. Applicant's claimed invention does away with this critical requirement of the Lages et al. reference.

Clearly, when viewed in this light the Lages et al. reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest the use of the positioning of the holes for receiving the connectors, sockets, or micro-relays without the need for a pair of locking slides as does Applicants' present invention.

In view of the remarks herein, and the amendments hereto, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and such action and issuance of a timely Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

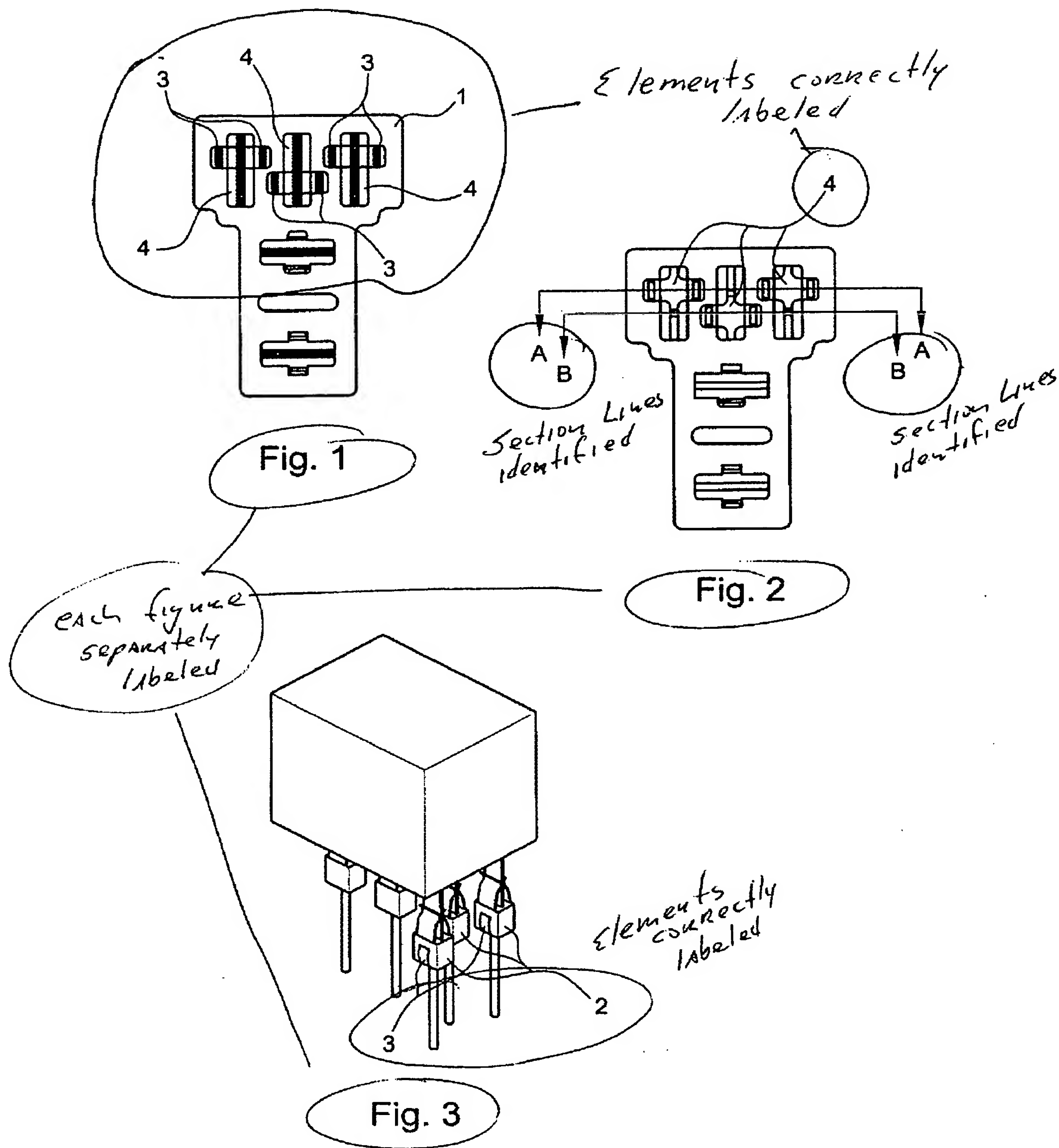
Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments two replacement drawing sheets and two annotated drawing sheets

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